

Amendment to the Claims:

The claims under examination in this application, including their current status and changes made in this paper, are respectfully presented.

1 (currently amended). A method of coating an oxidized surface comprising:

reacting an active species having a general formula of  $AX_n$  with the oxidized surface to produce a bond between A and the oxidized surface and ~~a new~~ to form an exposed surface having a reactive group; and

reacting a nucleophilic molecule having a general formula of  $DR^2$  with the reactive group to form a bond between the nucleophilic molecule and A;

wherein A may be any metal, semimetal, transition metal or ceramic;

wherein X may be any active group;

~~wherein  $DR^2$  is of the same chemical class as X;~~

wherein  $R^2$  includes an organic substituent not reactive with active group X;

and wherein  $R^2$  forms a coating.

2 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein the coating is hydrophobic.

3 (original). The method of claim 2 wherein the hydrophobic coating inhibits reactions of the underlying surface with water.

Claim 4 is canceled.

5 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein the coating comprises a monolayer.

6 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein the oxidized surface is selected from the group consisting of: metals, semimetals, transition metals, ceramics, alloys thereof, and any combination thereof.

Claim 7 is canceled.

8 (original). The method of claim 1, further comprising X selected from the group consisting of: esters, amides, organic acids, phenolates, thiolates, phosphonates, and any combinations thereof.

9 (original). The method of claim 1, further comprising DR<sup>2</sup> selected from the group consisting of: alcohols, amines, organic acids, such as carboxylic acid, phenols, thiols, phosphonic acids, and any combinations thereof.

10 (currently amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising reacting the nucleophilic molecule with the reactive group at a temperature above the ~~normal~~ an environmental temperature ~~for to which~~ the coating is expected to be exposed in later processing.

11 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein A comprises Si.

12 (currently amended). The method of claim 11, wherein the active species comprises Si(OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> and the ~~nucleophile~~ nucleophilic molecule comprises an alcohol ~~having a general formula of~~ OR<sup>2</sup>.

13 (currently amended). A method of coating an oxidized surface comprising:

reacting an active species having a general formula of AR<sup>1</sup><sub>m</sub>X<sub>n</sub> with the oxidized surface to produce a covalent bond between A and the oxidized surface and ~~a new~~ to form an exposed surface having a reactive group; and

reacting a nucleophilic molecule having a general formula of DR<sup>2</sup> with the reactive group to form a covalent bond between the nucleophilic molecule and A, to form a coating;

wherein A may be any metal, semimetal, transition metal or metalloid;

wherein X may be any active group;

~~wherein DR<sup>2</sup> is of the same chemical class as X;~~

wherein R<sup>1</sup> includes an organic substituent non-reactive with the active group X;

and wherein R<sup>2</sup> includes an organic substituent non-reactive with the active group X;

~~and wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> form a coating.~~

14 (original). The method of claim 13 wherein the coating is hydrophobic.

15 (original). The method of claim 14 wherein the hydrophobic coating inhibits reactions of the underlying surface with water.

Claim 16 is canceled.

17 (original). The method of claim 13, wherein the coating comprises a monolayer.

18 (original). The method of claim 13, wherein the oxidized surface is selected from the group consisting of: metals, semimetals, transition metals, ceramics, alloys thereof, and any combination thereof.

Claim 19 is canceled.

20 (original). The method of claim 13, further comprising X selected from the group consisting of: esters, amides, organic acids, phenolates, thiolates, phosphonates, and any combinations thereof.

21 (original). The method of claim 13, further comprising DR<sup>2</sup> selected from the group consisting of: alcohols, amines, organic acids, such as carboxylic acid, phenols, thiols, phosphonic acids, and any combinations thereof.

22 (currently amended). The method of claim 13, further comprising reacting the nucleophilic molecule with the reactive group at a temperature above ~~the normal an~~ environmental temperature for to which the coating is expected to be exposed in later processing.

23 (original). The method of claim 13, wherein A comprises Si.

24 (currently amended). The method of claim 23, wherein the active species comprises Si(OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> and the ~~nucleophile~~ nucleophilic molecule comprises an alcohol ~~having a general~~ formula of OR<sup>3</sup>.

25 (currently amended). A method of coating an oxidized surface comprising:

reacting an active species having a general formula of  $\text{SiX}_n$  with the oxidized surface to produce a bond between Si and the oxidized surface and ~~a new~~ to form an exposed surface having a reactive group; and

reacting a nucleophilic molecule having a general formula of  $\text{DR}^2$  with the reactive group to form a bond between the nucleophilic molecule and Si;

wherein X may be any active group;

~~wherein  $\text{DR}^2$  is of the same chemical class as X;~~

wherein  $\text{R}^2$  includes an organic substituent not reactive with active group X;

and wherein  $\text{DR}^2$  forms a coating.

26 (currently amended). The method of claim 25; wherein the active species comprises  $\text{Si}(\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3)_4$  and the ~~nucleophile~~ nucleophilic molecule comprises an alcohol ~~having a general formula of~~  $\text{OR}^2$ .